

tendency to fun showed itself sometimes in playing off harmless practical jokes on Mrs. Hood. One of them was very ludicrous. She was a capital subject for his fun, he believed implicitly in whatever he said, however improbable, and though usually avowing every time not to be taken in again, she was sure to be caught. Innocent face of wonder and belief addressed to the zest of the joke.

One occasion soon after their marriage, Father was suddenly seized with rheumatism of a severe kind. On his paralytic recovery he was determined to bring upon it its strength. Sea air always produced a beneficial effect upon his health; and many years he was in the habit of visit-

for a few weeks. The fish woman had been so weak as to be obliged to be lifted into the coach at night, but the next day, refreshed by the breath of the bracing air, he was all himself. At breakfast he offered to give nothing a few hints on buying fish, adding that his own superior knowledge was a reason for informing her ignorance young housekeeper. "Above all things," said he, "as they will endeavor to importun your inexperience, let nothing in-duce you to buy a place that has any appearance of red or orange spots, as they are sure to be diseased and will not live." And when she promised faithful compliance in obedience of her heart, and accordingly the fish woman came to the door, she intended to show off her newly acquired in-formation. As it happened, the woman had a little extra place, and these she turned over, and placed before her. "Look at these. But the obvious red spots and

one of them had greeted my mother with a kiss on the cheek. On the first Christmas of her Irishness, she was met by the assertion that they were not long out of the warring having been caught that morning. — I shook my mother's doubts for a moment remembering my father's portrayal of the Brighton fishwomen's iniquitous wiles, she gravely shook her head, and I agreed in a dutiful and unhesitating nod. "My good woman, it may be as you say, but I could not think of buying a brace with those very unpleasant red cheeks." The woman's answer was a perspiration. "Lord bless your eyes, mum! I never seed any without 'em!" — I suppressed a giggle on the stairs rendered inappropriate by the joke, and my father, still off on a perfect spree of laughter, telling my poor discomfited mother to stop the angry sea nymph as she could, was a standing joke for "munch" for the Christmas number of "Punch" for the year (1843) appeared the famous "Song of a Shirt." It was of course inserted

ludicrous. Paper after paper quoted it, and it became the talk of the day. There is little speculation as to its author, although several I believe Dickens among the first attributed it to his right source. The first my father wrote to one of the daily papers, and acknowledged it. He was astonished, and a little amused at its wonderful popularity, although my mother attributed it to him, when she was folding up a packet ready for the press. "Now mind, mark my words, this will tell wonderfully!" It is one of the best things you ever saw. / This turned out a true prophecy. It was translated into French and German, and I believe, into Italian. My father often laughed, and wonder howthey derived the peculiar burthen, "Stitch, stitch, stitch!"

"Seam and gusset and band!"
was printed on cotton pocket-handker-
chief for sale, and has met with the usual
of all popular poems, having been pub-
lished many times without number. But what
amazed and yet touched my father most
was, that the poor creatures, to whose
sorrows and sufferings he had given
eloquent voice, seemed to adopt its
as their own, by singing them about
streets to a rude air of their own adapta-
tion of the old song.
and jewelry is much worn by the ladies
through this season. The English papers
are full of articles denouncing the
of the London Journals say: "We
to believe that this yellow invasion of
gowns, waistbands and buckles is destined
to have existence: for if such were the case

and fairer sex would naturally be
the fairest in New Zealand, and deni-
ing that quarter of the globe in which
lation has hitherto been marching hand
and good taste."

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